

7
DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES,

AND

PREAMBLE AND CONSTITUTION,

OF THE

Universal Peace Society

WITH

A LIST OF THE OFFICERS.

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DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES,

AND

PREAMBLE AND CONSTITUTION

OF THE

UNIVERSAL PEACE SOCIETY,

WITH A LIST OF THE OFFICERS.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. *Resolved*, That all human beings are the offspring of one infinite, all-perfect Father; that they all belong to the same general family; that, as individual entities, they are all of inestimable worth; and that, though distinguished by multiform differences, they are all essentially co-equal in their natural rights.

2. *Resolved*, That all human beings are the bounden subjects of one supreme divine moral law, which requires them severally to love their Heavenly Father with all their powers, and each other as themselves; and that this love worketh no ill to its objects.

3. *Resolved*, That a clear distinction ought always to be made between man proper and his imperfections, whether physical, intellectual, or moral; that man proper and his highest good are always to be held absolutely sacred; that man's imperfections alone are to be assailed, resisted, and overcome by all suitable means; and that *such* means are those only which legitimately promote the highest good of all parties concerned.

4. *Resolved*, That, in the treatment of human beings, whatever is evil for any one cannot be good for another, or for the general public good, but that the highest good of each and all must ever be the same.

5. *Resolved*, That all force exerted by man on man, the natural effect of which is to destroy or to impair organic life, is properly termed *deadly* force, and is *per se* evil.

6. *Resolved*, That all conscious, voluntary inflictions of deadly force by man on man positively disregard the good of the suffering party, and therefore must be greater or less transgressions of the supreme divine law.

7. *Resolved*, That all contests between human beings, wherein the parties resort to deadly force, are of the nature of war, either offensive or defensive; that war is the same in principle, whether carried on between nations, states, smaller combinations, or individuals; and that all war is inherently sinful to the extent in which the contending parties respectively set at nought each other's real welfare.

8. *Resolved*. That no organization of human society, acting through whatever form of government authority and agency, can possess the right to set aside or over-rule the supreme divine law of love, so as to render it the absolute duty of one human being to kill, harm, or injure another.

9. *Resolved*, That government organizations are *possible*, which shall be constitutionally confined to the use of beneficent means only; that they are destined to rise and ultimately supersede the existing war-sustained institutions, and that it is our highest duty, as well as privilege, to prepare the way for them, by precept and example.

10. *Resolved*, That no government organization is likely to be morally better than the average sentiment and character of its supporters; and therefore it is not to be reasonably expected that rulers will ever conform to radical Peace Principles, so long as their constituents, especially the influential classes of them, cling to war measures.

11. *Resolved*, That the cause of Universal Peace is based upon, and should be advocated on essential divine principles of righteousness—not on mere human expediency or policy; that its success demands the combined influence of all that religion and moral philosophy can do

for the elevation of mankind; and that it is our mission to transeend all religions and philosophies that sanction war with those purer and higher ones which insist on the supreme divine law of love in its utmost applications to inter-human conduct.

12. *Resolved*, That we are not bound to show that a nation or people, wedded to war measures, can practically avoid all resorts to deadly force without spoilation or disgrace, because where there is no will there is no way; but that we are able and willing to show how a nation truly converted to peace principles might maintain their rights and honor against all warlike encroachments with far less sacrifice than is necessitated by the war system.

13. *Resolved*, That while we acknowledge the impossibility of establishing universal peace on earth without a higher moral development of mankind, we also believe such development will be promoted if those sufficiently elevated to embrace peace principles are faithful enough to stand forth as the uncompromising advocates of those principles.

14. *Resolved*, That the evils of war, and its kindred resorts to deadly force throughout the world, conclusively demonstrate that the human race, even in the most civilized nations, is still semi-barbarous, and that much farther progress, without the sincere adoption of radical peace principles, is impossible.

15. *Resolved*, That the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, as set forth in the Scriptures of the New Testament, and as faithfully illustrated by the primitive Christian church for two centuries, gloriously testified the highest devotion to radical peace principles; that we deplore the dreadful declension which culminated in the adulterous union of the church with worldly government under Constantine in the fourth century, whose contamination has propagated itself through all succeeding ages; and that we reverence the faithful minority who have remained true to the original peace testimonies, from generation to generation, in spite of grievous privations and persecutions.

PREAMBLE.

Whereas life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are natural, inalienable rights, subject to no human governments, but superior to all; and

Whereas, whatever is abstractly wrong can never be practically right or be innocently encouraged; neither can persons perform collectively what is unlawful for individuals, nor serve self and country to the injury of mankind; and

Whereas, Peace is self-control: and the abnegation of carnal weapons and the recognition of all the principles of love, justice, charity, and purity make for peace, communities and states permanently unite by attraction and consent, never through coercive violence, and the sword is not an essential element of our social system. but, like duelling and slavery, a relic of barbarous times and owes its prevalence to popular delusion; and

Whereas, wise advocates of truth, believing in God. believe also in man, overcome evil with good, choose to die rather than kill; and

Whereas, war destroys life, invades liberty, subverts good morals, and the spirit and teachings of Jesus Christ. retards and defeats rather than insures progress and the common welfare, and is a standing reproach to human nature;

Therefore we, the undersigned, in order to avail ourselves of the advantages of associate effort, unite in forming a Society to promote these truths, and adopt for our guidance the following Constitution.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

This Association shall be known as the Universal Peace Society.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECTS AND MEANS.

Its objects shall be, to remove the causes and abolish the customs of war; to discountenance all resorts to deadly force between individuals, states, or nations—never acquiescing in present wrongs. By taking away the sword, to give potency to the tongue and pen, and encourage moral efforts for the removal of those wrongs and evils, compromise with which renders peace impossible and undesirable. It will employ popular conventions, lectures, tracts, petitions, the pulpit, the press, and a Congress of Nations. It will use all effectual means of reason and moral appeal to convince the people that war is a sin against God and opposed to the best interests of mankind, and its immediate abandonment is alike a religious duty, the wisest expediency and an imperative necessity.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

All persons, irrespective of sex, race, condition, or nationality, who subscribe to its principles and contribute to its funds, shall be regarded as members of this association and entitled to a voice and vote in its meetings; and that no one shall be compromised by any vote of the majority, such minority may be recorded whenever requested.

ARTICLE IV.

OFFICERS.

Its officers shall be elected annually, and consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and Auditor, who shall perform the customary duties of their respective offices, and of an Executive Committee of not less than five or over twenty members.

ARTICLE V.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee shall have power to enact their own By-Laws, fill any vacancy in their body, or in the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, employ agents and publishers, direct the Treasurer in the application of all moneys, and call special meetings of the Society. They shall arrange for general Conventions of the Society and make an annual report of their doings, of the expenditures and funds of the Society, and adopt the most energetic measures in their power to advance its objects.

ARTICLE VI.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Society shall be held at such time and place as the Executive Committee may direct, when the account of the Treasurer shall be presented, the annual report read, appropriate addresses delivered, and such other business transacted as may be deemed expedient.

ARTICLE VII.

AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

All Associations having the same principles and purposes may become auxiliary to this Society, and their members shall be entitled to equitable representation in

its meetings. The public Conventions of this Society shall allow freedom of criticism and dissent, and respect diversities of opinion as tending to the development and establishment of truth.

ARTICLE VIII.

AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Society by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided the changes have been previously submitted to the Society in regular session or to the Executive Committee.

Officers for 1866-67.

PRESIDENT.

ALFRED H. LOVE, PHILADELPHIA.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

LEVI K. JOSLIN, Providence, R. I.

A. B. CHILD, M.D., Boston, Mass.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

(Of which all officers are ex-officio members.)

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 B. J. BUTTS, Hopedale, Mass.
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Persons interested will please subscribe their names, and collect Signatures and Contributions, either of Letters or Funds, and forward this page to the President or Corresponding Secretary, who will return other Publications of the Society.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	AMOUNT.

